



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 12 September 2005

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

## Daily Highlights

- The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles fearing fraudulent drivers' licenses may be in the hands of thieves, illegal immigrants, or even terrorists, has launched a probe into 140,000 unverifiable Social Security numbers that were used to obtain the IDs. (See item [5](#))
- eWEEK reports more than a week after Hurricane Katrina whipped through the Gulf region, many roads, production plants, and warehouses in New Orleans and surrounding areas remain shut, forcing businesses to reroute product shipments elsewhere. (See item [15](#))
- The New York Times reports all over Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, a volunteer army of nearly 1,000 amateur radio operators has stepped in to help fill the communications void that was left when Hurricane Katrina snapped telephone poles and toppled many cell phone towers. (See item [28](#))

## DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

**Production Industries:** [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

**IT and Cyber:** [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

**Other:** [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) –

<http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 10, Reuters* — **European Union demands more and cheaper oil.** European ministers urged the oil-producing countries on Saturday, September 10, to boost supplies rapidly to combat soaring fuel bills and told oil companies to reinvest more of their vast profits in exploration and refining. After chairing a meeting of European Union finance ministers in

England, British finance minister Gordon Brown called on the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) states to raise production by half a million barrels a day ahead of its September 19 meeting. He said another 1.5 million barrels a day released by OPEC after hurricane Katrina should be extended for a longer period. "This global problem needs global solutions," Brown said, highlighting estimates that, beyond the immediate threat to economic growth from world oil prices of nearly \$70 a barrel, oil demand could rise 50 percent in the next 20 years. The ministers issued a statement saying they also wanted oil companies to increase investment in oil exploration, production and refining capacity as well as alternative energy services.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/10/AR2005091000371.html>

2. *September 10, San Jose Mercury News (CA)* — **Gasoline pollution standards relaxed.** California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's administration on Friday, September 9, relaxed state pollution standards on gasoline in an effort to boost supply and reduce the risk of shortages and price spikes following Hurricane Katrina. The move allows oil companies to sell winter blend gasoline now, instead of waiting until October 31, as state law requires in normal years. Officials at the California Air Resources Board said the decision will increase smog-forming emissions by three percent but will enable refiners to make as much as 10 percent more gasoline from each barrel of oil. California only imports about 10 percent of its gasoline, but with refineries still shut down in Mississippi and Louisiana, state energy officials feared prices could spike. A second problem is that some of the additives used to make the cleaner summer blend of fuel — which is less prone to smog-producing evaporation — come from Mississippi and Louisiana and are unavailable.

Source: [http://www.kansas.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/12610237.htm?source=rss&channel=mercurynews\\_local](http://www.kansas.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/12610237.htm?source=rss&channel=mercurynews_local)

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

3. *September 10, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer (GA)* — **Crews clean up fuel spill.** Between 50 and 100 gallons of oil and diesel fuel spilled into a portion of Cooper Creek off Miller Road Thursday, September 8, a Columbus, GA, city official said Friday, September 9. City Fire and Emergency Medical Services dispatched a hazardous material team to an old Texaco gas tank farm at Miller Road and Miller Court after receiving a 911 call, Battalion Chief Jim Bryant said. "When we got there it had affected about 100 yards of the waterway and we were able to stop it and keep it contained before it hit the main Cooper Creek Park," Bryant said. The spill remains under investigation by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and the city's Codes and Enforcement Division, Bryant said.

Source: <http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/mld/ledgerenquirer/news/local/12607166.htm>

4. *September 08, Information Week* — **Airborne lab searches Katrina disaster area for chemicals.** Using Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT), the Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have been searching for hundreds of airborne chemicals in the days since Hurricane Katrina struck. The information is relayed to scientists at Los Alamos. The team can notify

rescuers if shifting winds are blowing a toxic plume their way. The EPA's flying lab, aboard an Aero Commander 680 twin-engine plane, has been flying over the Gulf Coast, searching for explosions, leaks, and fires. The airborne lab operates with a crew consisting of a pilot, a co-pilot and a system operator. It is equipped with three sensors that can detect hundreds of chemicals and several radiological materials. A Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer can peer through smoke to detect the energy, or infrared light, emitted by chemical vapors in the air. It can measure and located the concentration of the vapor plume. A high resolution Infrared Line Scanner records an image of the ground and information about the plume hovering above it. Digital photography and video are combined with a Global Positioning System and navigation data to map the plume. The direction of wind is plotted, and overlays show where toxic air may build up.

Source: <http://informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=170701669>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

5. *September 10, Boston Herald* — **Registry probes over 100,000 licenses: identity theft suspected.** Fearing fraudulent drivers' licenses may be in the hands of thieves, illegal immigrants or even terrorists, the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has launched a probe into 140,000 unverifiable Social Security numbers that were used to obtain the IDs. The discrepancies, found during an internal review of RMV documents issued before 2000, have sparked concern that individuals have been using Massachusetts licenses in other peoples' names for years to commit crimes. The number of Social Security numbers in question amounts to a small fraction of the 5.4 million license-holders in Massachusetts. Experts said, however, that the power a valid license endows upon citizens to obtain credit cards, passports and other official documents means that even a small amount of fraud could have a far-reaching impact. "We did send 140,000 Social Security numbers to state police special investigations," said Kim Hinden, the registrar of motor vehicles. "We want to know if these people are using them for criminal activities." Hinden said many of the discrepancies may have innocuous explanations, such as a name change due to marriage or a simple typographical or inputting error, but officials remain concerned about the possibility of identity theft or "licensed" terrorists.

Source: <http://news.bostonherald.com/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=101838>

6. *September 09, CNET News* — **Merchants learn about credit card fraud.** An event in Sacramento, CA, on Thursday, September 8, that is part of a nine-city tour hosted by Visa USA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, dealt with credit card industry rules for merchant security. These rules, called the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard, went into effect earlier this year but have been criticized because of a lack of enforcement. "Anybody who accepts payment cards can be the target of criminals," Joe Majka, vice president of fraud

control at Visa told the audience. Still, Majka said that merchants who follow the credit card industries rules are safe. The PCI Data Security Standard has 12 basic requirements that focus on using secure systems. The rules include installing a firewall, changing default passwords, protecting stored data, using antivirus software and encrypting transmissions of cardholder data across public networks. While perhaps common sense to technically savvy people, the security rules aren't always as obvious to card-accepting merchants. "It is amazing how many businesses out there are using the default passwords," Majka said. "We also found some merchants getting into wireless access, not realizing they could be creating an entry point for criminals," said Majka.

PCI Data Security Standard: [http://usa.visa.com/download/business/accepting\\_visas\\_operations\\_risk\\_management/cisp\\_PCI\\_Data\\_Security\\_Standard.pdf](http://usa.visa.com/download/business/accepting_visas_operations_risk_management/cisp_PCI_Data_Security_Standard.pdf)

Source: [http://news.com.com/Putting+the+squeeze+on+credit+card+fraud/2100-7349\\_3-5856625.html?tag=nefd.lede](http://news.com.com/Putting+the+squeeze+on+credit+card+fraud/2100-7349_3-5856625.html?tag=nefd.lede)

7. *September 09, E-Commerce Times* — **Phishing liability concerns online banks.** Online banking firms now have a new worry — liability for customer losses due to phishing scams. For the last year or so, online financial institutions and their IT consultants — as well as consumer interest groups — have focused on fixing security, adding authentication and encryption and other technologies to forestall scammers. However, the phishing problems continue. Now, experts say banks may soon be on the hook for financial losses by customers if they cannot secure their online stores. A recent survey of U.S. Internet users by the Ponemon Institute agrees with this premise, finding that over three-fifths of the survey respondents believed it "unacceptable" for a bank to not respond to phishing schemes that use the bank's identity as the means of gaining the victim's trust. Nearly 96 percent of the respondents said that banks need to use technology to provide protection to their banking customers. In other words, customers blame the banks, not just the criminals. Glenn Gearhart, chief executive officer of cyber security company ACAP Security, said that financial institutions should consider "new security strategies" for their enterprise information security programs and customer data management services, so as to prevent losses from customer accounts.

Source: <http://www.ecommercetimes.com/rsstory/45890.html>

8. *September 06, National Association of Securities Dealers* — **Advance-fee scams target non-U.S. investors.** The National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD) is issuing an alert to warn non-U.S. investors that scammers are using fraud — including phony regulator Websites and fake identities — to separate investors from their money. The scam generally begins with a phone call offering to pay an enticingly high price to buy shares of stock an investor owns that are virtually worthless (sometimes referred to as "non-performing"). To build legitimacy, the caller refers the investor to a phony Website that contains investor protection information, or poses as a legitimate securities professional or regulator. To take the "deal," the investor is asked to send a fee in advance to pay for their services. Once the money is sent, the investor never sees it, or any of the money from the deal, again. Because it is very difficult for regulators and law enforcement agencies to recover any losses from these "advance fee" scams, the best defense is to avoid being defrauded in the first place. This alert describes real-life tactics of recent advance-fee scams and offers tips on how to avoid becoming a victim, such as using NASD's BrokerCheck to check out the caller, as well as where to turn for legitimate help and advice.

Source: [http://www.nasd.com/web/idcplg?IdcService=SS\\_GET\\_PAGE&ssDocN](http://www.nasd.com/web/idcplg?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&ssDocN)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

9. *September 11, Santa Fe New Mexican (NM)* — **Operation Safe Border: State police get involved.** As part of a new project called Operation Safe Border, New Mexico state police officers are being sent from all over the state to the border for five-day rotations, according to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Peter Olson. Funds for their overtime are being paid by Governor Bill Richardson's August declaration of emergency in four border counties: Hidalgo, Grant, Doña Ana, and Luna. The \$750,000 in emergency funds freed up by Richardson's declaration will pay for six additional officers on border duty through March, Olson said. He said they will be looking for smugglers of drugs and humans as well as responding to other immigration-related crimes such as property damage. "We're not looking for people who are crossing the border illegally. We don't inquire about immigration status." But "if that comes up," it will be turned over to the Border Patrol, Olson added. Another \$1 million in funding to local police agencies is expected to be announced soon, said Tim Manning, director of the New Mexico Office of Homeland Security.

Source: <http://www.freenewmexican.com/news/32348.html>

10. *September 09, Associated Press* — **Airlines seek \$600M in jet-fuel tax relief.** With jet fuel prices soaring in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, U.S. airlines have asked Congress and the White House for \$600 million in tax relief. Commercial airlines, which have been battered, and in some cases bankrupted, by high energy costs are seeking a one-year reprieve from the 4.3-cents-per-gallon federal tax on jet fuel. "We've discussed it with the Department of Transportation and folks on the Hill," said Jack Evans, a spokesperson for the Air Transport Association, a Washington-based trade group. U.S. airlines have lost in excess of \$30 billion over the past four years, partly because of competition from low-cost carriers and the economic downturn, but also because of high energy costs. The average spot price of jet fuel is now about \$2.12 a gallon in New York, up from \$1.27 a year ago. Prices have been rising all year, but they took a big jump after Katrina, which shut down pipelines and refineries and caused supplies to tighten.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-09-fuel-tax\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-09-fuel-tax_x.htm)

11. *September 09, Associated Press* — **Continental sees \$300M in savings for 2005.** Continental Airlines expects to save about \$300 million in 2005 from pay and benefit reductions achieved for most work groups, the air carrier said Friday, August 9, in an update for investors. In the presentation filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Continental said it expects to achieve roughly \$418 million of savings on an annualized basis when the cuts are fully implemented. The Houston-based carrier also said that despite continued improvement in revenue trends, it still expects to record a "significant loss" for 2005, due to record high fuel prices. Continental recently announced an order for two new Boeing 777-200ER wide body aircraft to support its international expansion. The aircraft are scheduled for delivery in the first quarter of 2007. The company also said it expects its debt principal and capital lease payments for the third quarter to be around \$74 million. Looking ahead, the company said domestic advanced bookings through mid-October are slightly ahead of last year at this time, while



international advanced bookings are running slightly behind the same period last year.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-09-conti-savings\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-09-conti-savings_x.htm)

12. *September 09, New York Daily News* — **Fire delays Penn Station trains.** An escalator fire led to the evacuation of New York's Penn Station on Thursday, September 8, and delayed hundreds of NJTransit and Amtrak commuters, officials said. The blaze broke out about 7:40 p.m. (EDT) in an escalator leading to tracks 7 and 8 at the sprawling transit hub. The fire shut down five tracks, delaying NJTransit and Amtrak trains. Subways were not affected by the blaze, officials said. Police said the fire was brought under control just before 10 p.m., but passengers were not allowed to enter the station until the smoke had cleared and power was restored to the tracks about a half hour later.

Source: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/local/story/344755p-294349c.html>

13. *September 08, Associated Press* — **Business at smaller ports picking up.** The docks in Morehead City, NC, are booming this week, as longshoremen unload twice the amount of rubber that normally passes through the port. The Port of Pensacola in Florida has increased cargo traffic by about 60 percent in the days since Hurricane Katrina and companies are calling to see how much more steel, lumber and other products it can handle. Panama City, FL, expects a 60 to 70 percent increase this year. Neither the two North Carolina ports, nor their Florida counterparts rank in the country's top 40. But they are receiving cargo once headed for New Orleans or Pascagoula and Gulfport, MS, before Hurricane Katrina swept through, damaging ports and forcing shippers to divert to docks elsewhere along the Gulf and East coasts. The extra workload has taxed some ports. Panama City has turned away cargo it's not equipped to handle and for the first time is accommodating small container ships that carry textiles to Mexico and return with finished products, ports executive director Wayne Stubbs said Thursday, September 8. The added shipping and logistics costs are just one item on the mounting bill businesses are paying for Katrina. That bill is topped by the jump in the cost of fuel, so large that it will bury the cost of port changes.

Source: [http://www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthsuperior/business/12\\_592942.htm](http://www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthsuperior/business/12_592942.htm)

14. *August 05, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-05-930: Aviation Safety: Oversight of Foreign Code-Share Safety Program Should Be Strengthened (Report).** U.S. airlines are increasingly relying on code-share partnerships with foreign carriers to provide additional sources of revenue. Code-sharing is a marketing arrangement in which an airline places its designator code on a flight operated by another airline and sells and issues tickets for that flight. To determine whether the foreign code-share partners of U.S. airlines meet an acceptable level of safety, in 2000, the Department of Transportation (DOT) established the Code-Share Safety Program, which requires U.S. airlines to conduct safety audits of their foreign code-share partners as a condition of code-share authorization. The Government Accountability Office's (GAO) objective was to assess the federal government's efforts to provide reasonable assurance of safety and security on foreign code share flights. GAO reviewed (1) the extent to which DOT's code share authorization process is designed to consider safety and security, (2) the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) management of the Code-Share Safety Program, and (3) the implementation of the program by airlines and the results. GAO recommends that DOT clarify procedures for airlines to follow in documenting corrective actions and improve management controls over FAA's reviews of safety audit reports. DOT agreed to consider the recommendations.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05930high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-930>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

15. *September 07, eWEEK* — **Katrina applies supply chain stranglehold.** More than a week after Hurricane Katrina whipped through the Gulf region, many roads, production plants and warehouses in New Orleans and surrounding areas remain shut, forcing businesses to reroute product shipments elsewhere, either with or without support from high-tech tools. Even beyond the human suffering and financial losses felt in New Orleans itself, companies and consumers in neighboring communities in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi are experiencing the impact of major supply chain disruptions. Central Louisiana, for example, escaped hurricane flooding, but gas and diesel fuel are in extremely short supply there, and some food items are completely unobtainable, said Mike Pierce, general manager of 3-J's Trucking Company Inc., a Lecompte, LA-based regional trucking and warehousing firm. All the while, 3-J's has been re-routing its truckers, too. At this point, the company has adopted routes that circumvent Baton Rouge, LA. The regional trucker has not yet adopted more elaborate software in the "routing optimization" category. Routing optimization software is designed to let shippers and transport firms find the most efficient transport routes, according to Kevin O'Marah, an analyst with AMR Research. Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.1856215.00.asp>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Agriculture Sector**

16. *September 11, Brownsville Herald (TX)* — **Tick inspections mandated for Cameron County livestock.** Citing a recent spike in the number of fever tick cases in Cameron, TX, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has mandated tick inspections for every head of cattle and every horse, mule, and donkey in the county. The USDA successfully eradicated fever ticks from the U.S. in the 1930s. The tick is known to carry the babesiosis disease, which causes fever and death in infected animals. Mexico never eradicated the fever tick. A permanent quarantine zone has been drawn up by USDA that extends up to U.S. Highway 281 in Cameron County and runs roughly two miles from the Rio Grande along the Texas-Mexico border. Bob Hillman, Director of the Texas Animal Health Commission, said: "There has been a recent, significant increase in tick activity, and there are several reasons for it. First of all, Mexico is doing very little about their tick problem. They have very little efforts only being done by a handful of states in that country. And we haven't had a killing freeze in Cameron County in a long time." Hillman cited a July report showing 75 infested premises inside the permanent quarantine zone in Cameron County, and 33 infested premises outside the quarantine zone. Source: [http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/ts\\_more.php?id=66991\\_0\\_10\\_0\\_C](http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/ts_more.php?id=66991_0_10_0_C)

17. *September 10, Las Vegas Sun (NV)* — **Cause of death of bighorn sheep baffles experts.** The cause of death of 22 desert bighorn sheep in southern Nevada is inconclusive after extensive

testing, state wildlife officials said. The Nevada Department of Wildlife launched an investigation after the animals were found July 24 near a watering hole in the McCullough Range with no obvious signs of trauma. Dan Crowell, a Nevada Department of Agriculture veterinarian, said testing was done for 13 different factors, including disease, metals, bacteria, and poisons. Crowell said three factors were not ruled out: blue-green algae, botulism, and dehydration, or some combination of the three. A thunderstorm brought heavy rain to the area the night and morning before the animals were found by some all-terrain vehicle riders. "Although water samples were negative for the toxins associated with blue-green algae and botulism toxicity, it is possible that the toxins could have been present and were subsequently flushed from the system with the rain incident," Crowell said. Examination of the bighorn carcasses showed they had died at least 24 to 48 hours before the thunderstorm. Biologists also ruled out anthrax, heavy metal and antifreeze contamination, and respiratory viruses.  
Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/nevada/2005/sep/10/091010227.html>

18. *September 09, Indiana Ag Connection* — **Police probe alleged well-tampering near dairy farm.** Police are going door-to-door interviewing neighbors of a confined-feeding dairy farm after some of its groundwater monitoring wells were contaminated. The owner of the Union-Go Dairy suspects that someone cut padlocks, opened lids, and contaminated two of the dairy's four groundwater monitoring wells with harmful amounts of bacteria and nitrogen. Dutch immigrant Tony Goltstein owns the 1,650-cow dairy farm, which is set to open soon. There are no cows at the dairy farm yet. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management issued a permit to Union-Go last September over the objections of hundreds of opponents who are appealing the permit. The farm's consultant, Julie French of Gordon & Associates in Bentonville, said it could cost Goltstein thousands of dollars to decontaminate the two wells or tens of thousands of dollars if he is required to drill two new wells.  
Source: <http://www.indianaagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=538&yr=2005>

19. *September 09, Agricultural Research Service* — **Groundbreaking for new poultry facility.** A groundbreaking ceremony was held Friday, September 9, for a new, \$5.2 million facility for state-of-the-art research on chickens and poultry at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Henry A. Wallace Beltsville, MD, Agricultural Research Center (BARC). The 28,100-square-foot building is designed primarily to house chickens and turkeys for poultry research conducted by BARC's Growth Biology Laboratory and Biotechnology and Germplasm Laboratory. Scheduled to open in May 2006, the new facility will have a "U"-shaped configuration. One wing will house turkeys, while the other wing will house chickens. A hatchery, labs and feed rooms will be located at the base of the "U".  
Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2005/050909.2.htm>

20. *September 08, Reuters* — **Disaster aid will cover farm losses nationwide.** Congress will provide financial aid to farmers hit by Hurricane Katrina and other weather losses, such as drought in the Midwest, the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator Saxby Chambliss, said on Thursday, September 8. "We will have an agriculture disaster portion" in the post-Katrina spending bills, the Georgia Republican said in response to questions from reporters. Chambliss said he met with Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns to discuss losses from Katrina and other causes. In the Midwest, he noted, drought "has been ongoing throughout most of the year." Sugar cane, cotton and soybeans were damaged in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi by the hurricane. Katrina also temporarily halted most barge traffic on the



Mississippi River, a key route for Midwest grain farmers to get their crops shipped to export markets. Before Katrina, corn and soybean crops in Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri and eastern Iowa suffered from weeks of heat and little rain. Southern Florida also had hurricane damage and there were spring floods in the northern Plains. The American Farm Bureau Federation has suggested two billion dollars billion in crop damage, lost sales and higher fuel prices.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/08/AR2005090800960.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Food Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Water Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Public Health Sector**

21. *September 10, Associated Press* — **Researchers find SARS-like virus in bats.** Bats carrying a Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) like virus are unlikely to pass it on to humans because they're too shy, a microbiologist said Saturday, September 10. Yuen Kwok-yung — who led a University of Hong Kong study into the severe acute respiratory syndrome — said bats tend to live in tunnels and caves and shy away from human contact. Yuen's study showed about half of the 25 proteins found in Chinese horseshoe bats are 98 percent the same as those in the SARS virus found in humans. A SARS outbreak that began in China in late 2002 killed 774 people worldwide, including 299 in Hong Kong. The findings of the Hong Kong researchers are to be published in The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences journal.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/09/10/AR2005091000857.html>

22. *September 09, Science* — **Pathogen surveillance in animals.** Emerging infections have an enormous impact on public health. Human mortality from recently emerged diseases varies, ranging from less than 100 people thus far for H5N1 avian influenza to about 20 million for AIDS. Animals, and particularly wild animals, are thought to be the source of more than 70 percent of all emerging infections. Therefore, surveillance in animals for zoonotic pathogens — pathogens of nonhuman vertebrate animals that may be transmitted to humans under natural conditions — is critical for managing these infections. Currently, pathogen surveillance in animals is usually the responsibility of government departments of agriculture. Its quality varies greatly among countries. Pathogen surveillance in wild animals, where and when it occurs at all, is without clear international reporting conventions. The few existing surveillance systems generally focus on a limited number of animal species and pathogens. The current system does

not provide a sufficient level of vigilance for several reasons. First, pathogen surveillance in domestic animals is generally confined to pathogens with known economic impacts. Second, pathogen surveillance in wildlife is less intensive to nonexistent. Finally, there is lack of integration among pathogen surveillance systems in humans, domestic animals, and wildlife. Source: <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/309/5741/1680>

23. *September 09, Journal of Urban Health* — **Health care workers' ability and willingness to report to duty during catastrophic disasters.** Catastrophic disasters create surge capacity needs for health care systems. This is especially true in the urban setting because the high population density and reliance on complex urban infrastructures (e.g., mass transit systems and high rise buildings) could adversely affect the ability to meet surge capacity needs. To better understand responsiveness in this setting, researchers conducted a survey of health care workers (HCWs) from 47 health care facilities in New York City and the surrounding metropolitan region to determine their ability and willingness to report to work during various catastrophic events. Results indicate that HCWs were most able to report to work for a mass casualty incident, or MCI, (83 percent), environmental disaster (81 percent), and chemical event (71 percent), and least able to report during a smallpox epidemic (69 percent), radiological event (64 percent), Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak (64 percent), or severe snowstorm (49 percent). In terms of willingness, HCWs were most willing to report during a snowstorm (80 percent), MCI (86 percent), and environmental disaster (84 percent), and least willing during a SARS outbreak (48 percent), radiological event (57 percent), smallpox epidemic (61 percent), and chemical event (68 percent).

Source: <http://jurban.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/82/3/378>

24. *September 09, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital* — **Drug resistant avian influenza viruses more common in Southeast Asia than North America.** Resistance to the antiviral drug amantadine is spreading more rapidly among avian influenza viruses of H5N1 subtype in Southeast Asia than in North America, according to the study done by investigators at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The St. Jude team reached this conclusion by analyzing sequence data of the so-called M2 protein of avian influenza viruses of different subtypes isolated in North America and Southeast Asia during 1991 to 2004; and by evaluating the frequency of drug-resistant strains. Sequence data refers to the makeup of a gene coding for a particular protein, in this case, the M2 protein. A properly functioning M2 protein is key to the virus' ability to replicate. The St. Jude researchers demonstrated that the largest proportion of Asian drug-resistant H5 and H9 avian influenza viruses occurred in China. H5 influenza viruses concern world health officials because H5N1 subtype has been spreading throughout chicken flocks and wild birds in Southeast Asia since it emerged in 1997. Between late 2003 and early 2004, outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian H5N1 influenza occurred among poultry in eight Asian countries, causing the death or destruction of tens of millions of birds. As of August 5, 2005, 112 cases of human H5N1 infection have been confirmed in Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Cambodia, of which 57 were fatal.

Source: [http://www.stjude.org/media/0.2561.453\\_2816\\_19068.00.html](http://www.stjude.org/media/0.2561.453_2816_19068.00.html)

25. *September 08, La Crosse Tribune (WI)* — **Three encephalitis cases reported in La Crosse area.** The first three cases of La Crosse encephalitis have been reported in the last week, La Crosse County health officials said Wednesday, September 7. A two year old Cashton, WI, boy contracted the mosquito-borne disease and was hospitalized for five days. An eight year old

Westby, WI, girl was hospitalized for one day. A 57-year-old Boscobel, WI, man also was diagnosed with the disease and hospitalized. Dave Geske, La Crosse County Health Department's mosquito control officer, said initial tests showed all three had the La Crosse strain of the disease. Encephalitis-carrying mosquitoes were found in containers or tires near the infected people's homes or places where they often go, Geske said. About a half-dozen encephalitis cases are reported in the La Crosse area each year. La Crosse encephalitis is a viral disease that usually affects children ages six to 15 and attacks the central nervous system. La Crosse Encephalitis information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arbor/lacfact.htm>  
Source: <http://www.lacrossetribune.com/articles/2005/09/08/news/z00mosquito.txt>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Government Sector**

26. *September 10, Department of Homeland Security* — **Highlights of United States Government response to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.** Federal support to state and local officials and volunteer organizations continues around the clock in an effort to save lives, sustain life, and assist with law enforcement operations in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. The Department of Labor has established a toll-free number (1-866-4-USA-DOL) and a Website to help evacuees file unemployment insurance claims and access temporary and permanent job information. The Coast Guard has established a forward operating base in Baton Rouge, LA, to coordinate pollution response efforts with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the state of Louisiana, and local industries. The Coast Guard is responding to over 150 pollution reports. Daily sampling of polluted areas is ongoing and EPA, in coordination with federal, state and local agencies will continue to release data as it becomes available.  
Department of Labor Website: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/hurricane-recovery.htm>  
Environmental Protection Agency Website: <http://www.epa.gov>  
Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4798>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Emergency Services Sector**

27. *September 10, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **FEMA: Emergency assistance flowing to Gulf Coast.** Nearly \$460 million in expedited aid to individuals has been provided by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the 48 hours since the agency activated the expedited assistance program. More than 230,000 eligible households are receiving these payments of \$2,000 to help pay for their emergency needs of food, shelter, clothing, personal necessities and medical needs. FEMA has sent out award payments to displaced individuals in all 50 states, and the District of Columbia where victims of Hurricane Katrina have evacuated. Those eligible will be awarded further federal assistance through FEMA, as assistance for destroyed homes, property and other needs assistance. Individuals calling in or getting on-line need only register once, as this triggers both the expedited assistance as well as any further assistance for which they are eligible.  
Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=18738>

28. *September 08, New York Times* — **Lacking phone lines, rescuers turn to ham radio operators.** All over Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, a volunteer army of nearly 1,000 amateur radio operators has stepped in to help fill the communications void that was left when Hurricane Katrina snapped telephone poles and toppled many cell phone towers. These ham operators suddenly find themselves in great demand: the Coast Guard, the American Red Cross, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have all made requests in the last week for more volunteer operators to handle communications at hospitals, evacuation centers and emergency operations facilities. "When all else fails, they turn to us," said Gary Stratton, who is coordinating Louisiana's volunteer operators from a base at the emergency operations center in Baton Rouge. "Until phone lines are replaced and cells are no longer overwhelmed with traffic, we are the ones keeping this area connected." In Gulfport, volunteer operators dispatched by FEMA to hospitals and evacuation shelters have been using their radios round the clock to send emergency calls. Ham operators use transmitters that can send messages to other operators both locally and around the world. Depending on the frequency and the time of day, these signals are sometimes easier to detect far away than nearby. Partly as a result, people in states as distant as California and Maine have also been helping coordinate relief efforts. Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/09/08/national/nationalspecial/08cnd-radio.html?pagewanted=all>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

29. *September 10, Security Focus* — **Mozilla/Netscape/Firefox browsers domain name remote buffer overflow vulnerability.** Mozilla/Netscape/Firefox are reported prone to a remote buffer overflow vulnerability when handling a malformed URI. The attack may result in a crash or the execution of arbitrary code. Firefox 1.0.6 and 1.5 Beta 1 are vulnerable to this issue. Mozilla 1.7.11 and Netscape 8.0.3.3 and 7.2 are affected as well. Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14784/references>
30. *September 09, Security Focus* — **Ipswitch Whatsup Small Business 2004 file disclosure vulnerability.** Ipswitch Whatsup Small Business 2004 is prone to a file disclosure vulnerability. This is due to a lack of proper sanitization of user-supplied input. A remote attacker may be able to exploit this vulnerability to reveal files that contain potentially sensitive information. Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14792/info>
31. *September 09, Security Focus* — **IBM OS/400 malformed SNMP requests remote denial of service vulnerability.** IBM OS/400 is susceptible to a remote denial of service vulnerability affecting its SNMP services. This issue allows remote attackers to crash the SNMP jobs on affected computers, denying service to further legitimate SNMP traffic. Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14798/info>
32. *September 09, Sun Java* — **Denial of Service vulnerabilities in Sun Java Web Proxy Server.** Three vulnerabilities may (separately) allow a remote unprivileged user to cause various releases of the Sun Java Web Proxy Server to become unresponsive to requests, which is a

Denial-of-Service (DoS) condition. Sun Java System Web Proxy Server 3.6 Service Pack 7 and earlier versions may be affected. Patches are available on the Sun Java website.

Source: <http://sunsolve.sun.com/search/document.do?assetkey=1-26-101913-1&searchclause>, Secunia <http://secunia.com/advisories/16757/>

## Internet Alert Dashboard

### DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

**Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.**

**US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** US-CERT has received reports of multiple phishing sites that attempt to trick users into donating funds to fraudulent foundations in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. US-CERT warns users to expect an increase in targeted phishing emails due to recent events in the Gulf Coast Region. Phishing emails may appear as requests from a charitable organization asking the users to click on a link that will then take them to a fraudulent site that appears to be a legitimate charity. The users are then asked to provide personal information that can further expose them to future compromises. Users are encouraged to take the following measures to protect themselves from this type of phishing attack: 1. Do not follow unsolicited web links received in email messages 2. Contact your financial institution immediately if you believe your account/and or financial information has been compromised US-CERT strongly recommends that all users reference the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) web site for a list of legitimate charities to donate to their charity of choice. For more information and current disaster updates please see URL: <http://www.fema.gov/>

### Current Port Attacks

<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	1026 (----), 6881 (bittorrent), 445 (microsoft-ds), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 40000 (----), 25 (smtp), 135 (epmap), 139 (netbios-ssn), 53 (domain), 32772 (sometimes-rpc7) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center
----------------------------	--

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

33. *September 10, Reuters* — **Mississippi casinos to rebuild, but barges questioned.** Casino owners are preparing to rebuild in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina destroyed gambling barges, but many would prefer to build on land this time. Mississippi is widely regarded as one of the three most casino-friendly jurisdictions, along with Nevada and Atlantic City, and its Gulf Coast housed two major gambling enclaves — until Katrina swept ashore, picking up and



throwing some floating casinos onshore in the process. "Right now, casinos have to be on water.... If they were on land, they probably would have sustained the hurricane," said Allan Solomon, executive vice president of Isle of Capri Casinos Inc., which had its flagship casino in Biloxi. MGM Mirage, owner of the Beau Rivage resort in Biloxi, cautions against hasty action. Beau Rivage, built on pilings, was badly damaged by Katrina but is still standing. Mississippi's legislature is expected to take up the issue. "Gaming is a key part of Mississippi's tax revenue base. It is a topic that will be discussed," said Pete Smith, a spokesperson for Governor Haley Barbour. Casino owners have said they expect insurance to cover rebuilding costs and losses from the massive hurricane that hit the Gulf Coast nearly two weeks ago.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-09-mississippi-casinos\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-09-09-mississippi-casinos_x.htm)

[[Return to top](#)]

## **General Sector**

**34. *September 11, ABC News* — American al Qaeda member warns of attacks.** In an apparent September 11 communiqué broadcast on ABC News, an al Qaeda operative threatens new attacks against cities in the U.S. and Australia. American intelligence officials believe the man who appears on the tape to be Adam Gadahn of Orange County, CA. Last year, Gadahn delivered a similar taped communiqué for al Qaeda. That tape was later deemed authentic. On the new tape, delivered to ABC News, Gadahn's message contains a very pointed al Qaeda threat against Los Angeles, CA, and Melbourne, Australia. The taped diatribe lasts 11 minutes. Like past tapes, it appears to include the same graphics and production techniques recognized by U.S. officials as part of al Qaeda's standard propaganda production. Adam Gadahn was a southern California teenager with interests in the environment and heavy metal music. His family says he converted to Islam at an Orange County mosque. There, officials say Gadahn came under the influence of militants who took him to Pakistan. He has since emerged as an al Qaeda propaganda tool. His latest message warns Americans an attack is imminent unless the U.S. stops its operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Investigation/story?id=1115448&page=1>

**35. *September 08, Los Angeles Times (CA)* — Animal activists toughen tactics.** In recent weeks, one neighborhood in the Larchmont Village section of Los Angeles, CA, has been under siege: graffiti scrawlings, stink bombs, menacing midnight phone calls and, in July, a bomb scare that forced an evacuation. Police and political leaders say it's a part of an escalation by animal rights activists in Los Angeles. The protesters' target is David Diliberto, a high-ranking official in the Los Angeles Animal Services Department, whom activists blame for failing to stop the city from euthanizing thousands of stray dogs it picks up each year. The campaign against Diliberto is part of an ongoing effort by activists to stop the euthanizing of animals in city shelters by targeting department officials. Last month, Diliberto told police his family was awakened by two people dressed as mortuary workers who said they were trying to pick up a dead body at his home. The protesters have affiliations with various groups, among them the Animal Defense League. Pamelyn Ferdin, the spokesperson for the league said that although her organization does not use illegal tactics she supports those who do — including the Animal Liberation Front, a secretive international group on the U.S. Justice Department's list of domestic terror organizations — and believes their help will help win the battle.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/state/la-me-animal8sep08.1>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

[DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website:  
<http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

Content and Suggestions: Send mail to [dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov](mailto:dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov) or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983–3644.

Subscription and Distribution Information: Send mail to [dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov](mailto:dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov) or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983–3644 for more information.

### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

### **Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer**

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.